

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)**

**EA Number:** ORO-056-01-086

**Title of Action:** Grass Valley Complex / Starvation Ridge Emergency Fire Rehabilitation Plan

**BLM Office:** Prineville District Office,  
Deschutes Resource Area  
Central Oregon Resource Area

### **Summary of the Proposed Action and Alternatives**

An interdisciplinary team from the lower Deschutes River and lower John Day River areas of the Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management has analyzed a proposal to rehabilitate selected areas that burned in the Grass Valley Complex and Starvation Ridge Fires. The fires were started by lightning in July 2001, and burned in both the Deschutes and John Day River corridors. Proposed rehabilitation activities are:

#### Grass Valley Complex:

- Drill seed 1050 acres of upland habitat with perennial species mix that includes 64% native species and 36% non-native species.
- ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) seed 40 acres that are inaccessible to the large equipment with the same seed mix.
- Reconstruct 2 ½ miles of allotment fence that burned in the fire.
- Construct 1 ½ miles temporary electric fence to protect seeded areas from grazing.
- Chemically treat 50 acres that are infested with diffuse knapweed, Canada thistle and scotch thistle to prevent potential spread of the weeds that could occur due to disturbance from the fire.
- Reconstruct two spring developments that were destroyed in the fire and repair three more that were damaged.
- Repair the protective fence around a cultural resource site in Macks Canyon campground.
- Rest the burned and rehabilitated areas from livestock grazing for two growing seasons.

#### Starvation Ridge Fire:

- Rehabilitate 37 acres along the John Day River that are infested with diffuse knapweed and Dalmation toadflax through herbicide application and seeding with perennial species. Herbicide application and seeding would be accomplished using ATVs. The proposed seed mix would be 64% native and 36% non-native.
- Drill seed 200 acres of upland habitat with perennial species mix that includes 64% native and 36% non-native species.

All proposed treatments are consistent with the Two Rivers Resource Management Plan, Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (1986), Lower Deschutes Resource Management Plan (LDRMP), Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (1993) and John Day River Management Plan Environmental Impacts Statement (EIS), Two Rivers, John Day and Baker Resource Management Plan Amendments and Record of Decision (ROD), 2001.

## FONSI Determination

I have reviewed the environmental assessment, including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant impacts. On the basis of the information contained in the EA and other information available to me, it is my determination that the proposed action does not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. My reasons for this determination are:

- There would be no significant irreversible or irretrievable commitments of the resources.
- There would be no significant, adverse impacts to water quality or stream channel morphology.
- There were no identified impacts or issues related to public health or safety.
- Cultural resources would be protected during project implementation.
- There would be no significant impact on Special Status plants or animals within the affected area.
- The residual impacts to wildlife which were identified in the EA would be mitigated through special fence design. Cumulative impacts to wildlife would be positive due to improved quality of habitat.
- Cumulative impacts to soil and vegetation identified in the EA would be positive because of increased vegetative cover and improved species composition and diversity.

An Environmental Impact Statement is therefore unnecessary and will not be prepared. All proposed treatments are consistent with the Two Rivers Resource Management Plan, Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (1986), Lower Deschutes Resource Management Plan (LDRMP), Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (1993) and John Day River Management Plan, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Two Rivers, John Day and Baker Resource Management Plan Amendments and Record of Decision (ROD), 2001.

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Deschutes Resource Area

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Date